

YSU JOINS THE STATE IN LAWSUIT AGAINST OBAMACARE

JUSTIN WIER
jcwier@student.yzu.edu

Youngstown State University is a plaintiff in a lawsuit filed by Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine that challenges the constitutionality of a certain provision in the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare.

Section 1341 of the Affordable Care Act requires states to establish reinsurance entities during the first three years of the law's implementation, intended to stabilize premiums and reduce the risk posed to insurance companies as they adapt to the regulations introduced by Obamacare. If a state chooses not to establish reinsurance — as Ohio did not — they will be established by the federal government.

The law specifically cites the risk of adverse selection. This occurs when insurance companies attract only high-risk individuals who are expensive to insure. The individual mandate exists to protect against this, and the reinsurance pools provide a second layer of protection during the transition period.

The reinsurance entities are funded by what the leg-

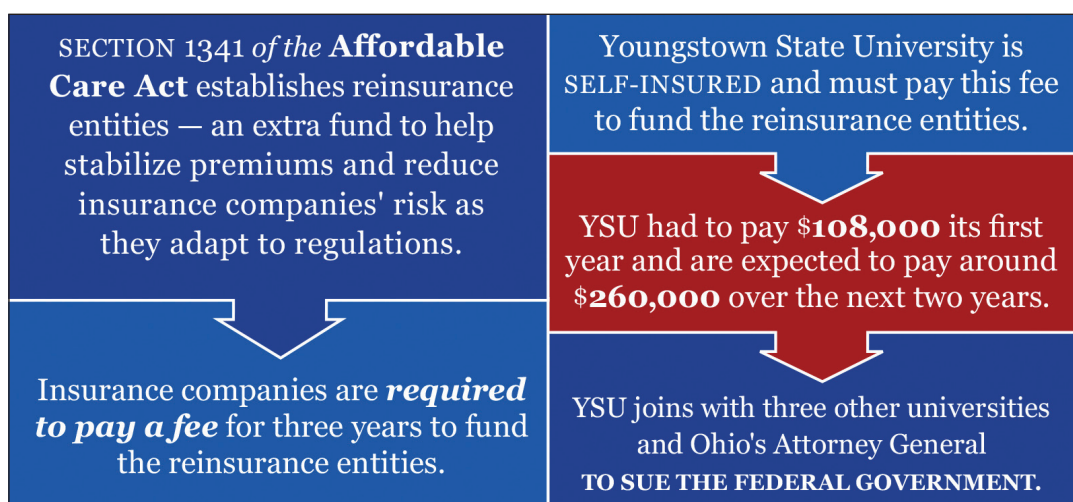
islation refers to as a payment — but DeWine has labeled a tax — to be made by “health insurance issuers and third party administrators on behalf of group health plans.”

The United States Department of Health and Human Services has used this language to collect payments not only from private insurers, but also state and local government entities, like YSU, whose employees receive coverage through self-insured group health plans.

DeWine sees this as an abuse of executive power.

“This tax assessment by the Obama Administration is an unprecedented attempt to destroy the balance of authority between the federal government and the states,” DeWine said in a press release. “The \$5.3 million Ohio is being taxed is money that could be used for education, public safety and roads and bridges. The states are not the federal government's tax collectors, and the Obama Administration should refund these illegal taxes immediately.”

The lawsuit claims that it is unconstitutional for the federal government to collect what it refers to as a tax from the states, citing the 10th Amendment,



GRAPHIC BY STACY RUBINIC/THE JAMBAR.

which states that powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution are reserved for the states. Furthermore, the lawsuit argues that state and local government institutions were not intended to be considered “health insurance issuers, and third party administrators on behalf of group health plans,” and their inclusion by the Department of Health and Human Services is evidence of bureaucratic overreach.

Jonathan Adler, a professor of law at Case Western Reserve University, said that while the state argues there is a doctrine of intergovernmental tax immunity, the second argument is the one that has the greater force.

“When the federal government is implementing a

policy in a way that appears to alter the federal-state balance or to intrude upon the ability of state governments or governmental entities to perform their normal functions, there's a very heavy presumption against a statutory interpretation that would authorize that result,” Adler said. “So that argument essentially is that unless the statute is absolutely clear about authorizing or even requiring the imposition of these sorts of taxes on state and local governments, that they're not authorized. And I think that that argument is a very serious argument, and one that the federal government will take seriously and their courts will take seriously.”

The lawsuit aims to recoup the payments plain-

tiffs have already made and stop the government from collecting payments over the next two years.

Ron Cole, director of university communications at YSU, said the university had to pay \$108,000 in the first year — \$63 per person covered by the group health plan — and is projected to pay around \$130,000 in each of the following two years, resulting in payments totaling nearly \$400,000.

“We felt, given the cost, that it was worthwhile to us to sign on with the Attorney General to see if this is an applicable law and let the courts decide,” Cole said.

The University of Akron, Bowling Green State University and Shawnee State University are also plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

International EMT Students Aim for Success in Saudi Aramco

ALYSSA PAWLUK
alpawluk@student.yzu.edu

International students in Youngstown State University's Emergency Medical Technician program are being trained to work for one of the largest corporations in the world: Saudi Aramco.

Saudi Aramco is a global petroleum enterprise located in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and is a world leader in exploration, production, marketing and petrochemicals manufacturing. Saudi Aramco sponsors more than 1,000 high school students in Saudi Arabia to study at worldwide universities before moving onto college.

Mohammed Alghamdi, Ayidh Alghamdi, Abdulallah Alkhunaizy, Abdulallah Anazi, Jassim Almutairi, Mohammed Almadan and Hussain Alsayagh are some of YSU's students who will be training as EMTs and eventually will be working for Saudi Aramco.

To work for the company — as well as study as an undergraduate — the students have

to score a certain percentage on the Test of English as a Foreign Language and The English Language Institute at YSU helps students to accomplish this.

The English Language Institute, part of the Center for International Studies and Programs, offers a noncredit English program for these international students.

Lynn Greene, assistant director for the ELI of YSU, said that the institute provides courses like grammar, reading, writing, listening, vocabulary and speaking to help the students prepare for test.

“Since 2010, we have been getting students from the Aramco Company. They come to us first until they get their TOEFL, a test of English proficiency, scores up. You have to have a certain score on this test before you are immiscible if you are an international student. They have to come to us to get their grammar and writing and their listening skills up so that they can enter undergraduate studies,” Greene said.

Greene said that these students would receive a two-year

degree from the university and, after graduation, would work for the Aramco Company in Saudi Arabia.

The students have to work for the company for a number of years to pay back the education, or work as full-time employees if they choose to.

“Aramco pays for their tuition, their fees, and they give them living expenses. They give them a stipend every month,” Greene said.

The ELI currently has 52 students and has been a part of campus since 1996. Greene said the ELI prepares the students for their continued education.

“Every once in a while, we will get someone who wants in just to improve their English, but our basis is academic, not every day English ... going to the grocery store to the mall. ... We prepare them not just with grammar, reading and vocabulary for the university, but also culturally. We prepare them for the classroom in general and for the whole experience,” Greene said. “We are sometimes the last key to fit the lock to getting to the university. Their grades are good enough, their credits transfer. If they want to go to graduate school, but their English isn't quite where it should be.”

The English Language Institute on campus is open to anyone whose first language is not English, but Greene said the program has had permanent residents — non-native speakers who are married to Americans.

While all of the YSU students in the program have to

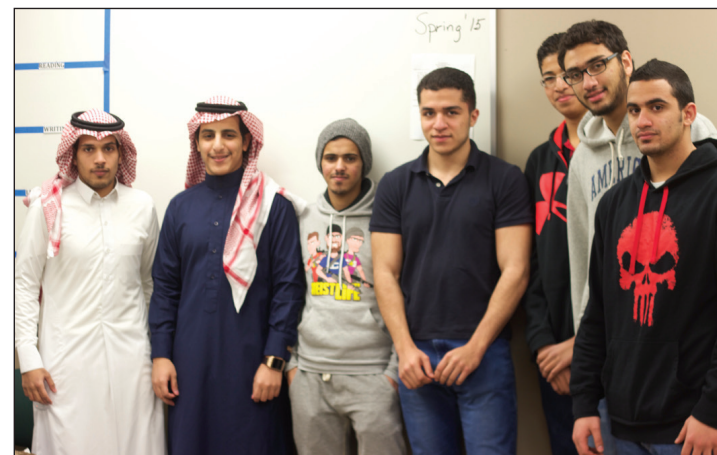


PHOTO BY ALYSSA PAWLUK/THE JAMBAR.
Students of the English Language Institute and Saudi Aramco.

YSU Offers Free Tax Preparation to Community Members

SPENCER CURCILLO
smcurcillo@student.yzu.edu

Benjamin Franklin believed that two things were certain in life: death and taxes. Youngstown State University's Williamson College of Business Administration is attempting to make the latter a less difficult experience for people through their participation in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

The VITA program is sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service and seeks to provide tax assistance by offering free training to volunteers hoping to be tax preparers.

WCBA's VITA branch is one of the busiest of the several in the Mahoning Valley region. It is estimated to have aided between 700-1000 people file taxes in each of the last two tax seasons.

Sharon Wathen, professor of accounting and finance at YSU, works as a volunteer tax reviewer for YSU's branch. Wathen said she believes the program is a great resource for students and members of the community.

“It's a free service to the community,” Wathen said. “Particularly for people who are filing for the first time or don't have a relationship with a tax preparer. It's an opportunity for free tax preparation; it's a great resource.”

Most of the volunteers who serve at the WCBA branch are students at YSU. Raymond Shaffer, chair of the accounting and finance department, is the coordinator for the Williamson location and has used

the program as an opportunity to help both volunteers and tax payers. He has created a course for student volunteers to enroll in, during which they complete the training offered by the IRS. They receive class credit as well, similar to an internship. Shaffer views it as a “win-win” situation.

Shaffer also said he believes the volunteer experience provides an opportunity for students to see the real world results of what they learn in their courses.

“The learning is practical,” Shaffer said. “This supplements for the students the theoretical class they take in our curriculum. ... The students who take the required course in our curriculum, which is more theoretical, and then they do this in addition — they get to see both the theory and the practice.”

Additionally, Shaffer said the program provides volunteers invaluable experiences that can't be simulated in the academic environment.

“The students who go through the program, in addition to learning tax knowledge, they learn how to deal with people,” Shaffer said. “You're dealing now with real people and real tax returns, real dollars for them. You're dealing with their lives. We hear stories about a spouse who just died. We hear stories about people not having enough money to pay rent, so we really get into their day-to-day lives, and that's something you cannot replicate in a class or in a textbook.”

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Taylor Phillips, a YSU student and intern for Student Activities, had visiting students spin a wheel of questions about YSU in Kilcawley Center yesterday for Spring 2015's Crash Day. Crash Day is a YSU open house that invites high school students to the university to pitch the institution to them, with tours of campus and explanations of academic departments and career opportunities.

CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

LAUREN FOOTE
lfoote@student.ysu.edu

Student Activities is on a mission to accomplish two important tasks — bring more successful and engaging entertainment to campus while also helping Youngstown State University clubs and organizations raise awareness and funds for their endeavors — which is why Student Activities has developed the Concerts for a Cause series.

There will be four events in which Student Activities will partner with a club on campus, and together they

will bring a band or musical artist to put on a concert. The funds from the concert will aid the club that is sponsoring the act.

The idea for Concerts for a Cause came to Erin Driscoll and Carolyn Jesko at a Johnny Schwinn concert, during which he represented Food for the Hungry and their effort to aid in the fight against global childhood poverty. This fusion of entertainment and fundraising inspired the Student Activities employees to start their own Concerts for a Cause.

“They wanted to bring the perfect marriage with clubs and organizations around campus, to bring together YSU community and bring awareness to other organizations on campus. It is also a creative outlet to expose to the YSU community,” Jesko said.

Student Activities has only recently begun implementing the project, determining which student clubs and organizations fit best with every new artist they bring in and gauging what resonates most with YSU students.

Taylor Phillips, a YSU student, is working to create an application and survey for clubs and organizations to fill out. This application will ask clubs to describe their

connection to the artist, making it easier for the Student Activities office to pick an appropriate partner for the artist or band that is coming to campus. It also gives clubs and organizations a fighting chance to be the next concert's focus.

Student Activities has already hosted two concerts in the Concerts for a Cause series, the first of which featured the Moxies and brought attention to the YSUScape club early in January. The second was held last Thursday in the International Student Lounge. Seattle singer and songwriter OK Sweetheart came to YSU for a concert, and the Student Activities office, along with the Catholic Student Organization, brought a grand piano to the lounge and created a coffee shop feel for the concert. Kilcawley Center was decorated with a Valentine's Day theme — hearts surrounded the room and there were chocolate fountains, coffee, sweets and a photo frame for couples that wished to have their picture taken.

Student Activities hopes that these concerts will become more popular and held more frequently, sparking a new tradition in the YSU community.

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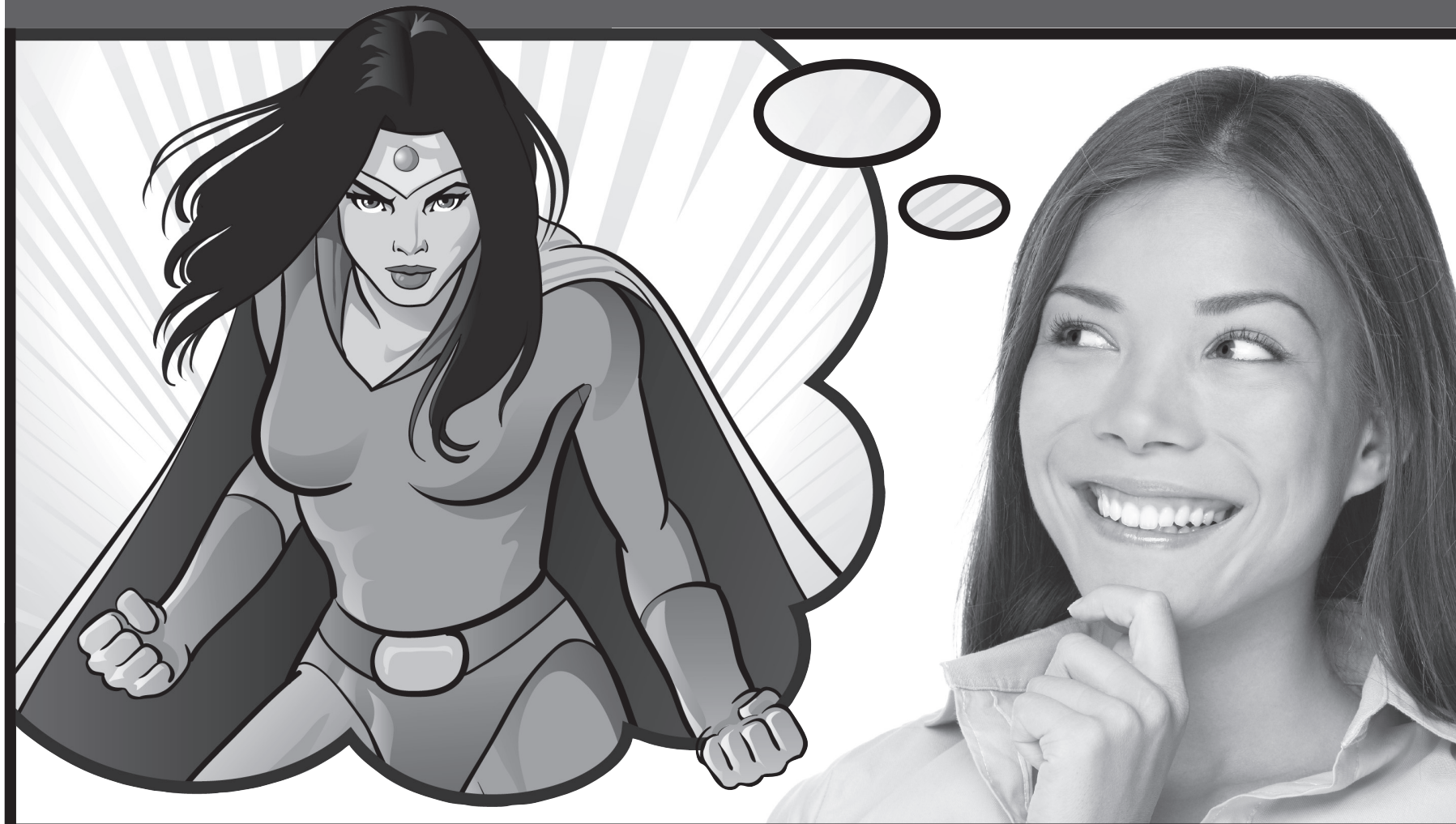
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Four of Youngstown State University's faculty members were recently featured in Ohio Magazine's annual "Excellence in Education" issue. The criteria for selection include excellence in teaching, distinction as members of the academic community, participation in professional development activities and interest in students outside the classroom or laboratory. The featured professors are Samuel Adu-Poku, associate professor, art; Molly Jameison Cox, assistant professor, psychology; Karin Petruska, associate professor, accounting and finance; and Ruiqiang Wang, assistant professor, chemistry.

work for Saudi Aramco after they receive the two years of education, some have said they will pursue studies in other areas besides the EMT.

Ayidh Alghamdi, one student who has been part of the ELI for six months, said that he would like to pursue a degree in the science or mathematics field.

"I hope that I will pass the IELTS, another test of the English language, and go to the university for two years as a paramedic. It's very awesome. We study the English language and then after that I will study biology and mathematical science," Ayidh Alghamdi said.

Mohammed Alghamdi said that after he works for Aramco, he is interested in becoming a paramedic.

"After I graduated high school, I went to

the Aramco Company and they chose the major for me. They told me about it and I think it is very good. In the future, you are going to be a paramedic and you will help the people and that is a good job, I think," Mohammed Alghamdi said.

Alkhunaizy said he is going to work as a paramedic for the company upon graduation.

"I started Aramco last year in December. They [Aramco] teach us general studies like math and biology and English before we came here so we can pass the IELTS exam. It's an exam that determines the level of English skills," Alkhunaizy said. "When I graduate, I'm going back to Saudi Arabia and I'm going to work as a paramedic in the Dhahran, a city in Saudi Arabia."

Be a Penguin, Lead a Penguin, Be a Peer Mentor!

What is a Center for Student Progress Peer Mentor?

A Peer Mentor (or PM) is a Youngstown State University student who has been hired and trained by the Center for Student Progress to serve as a mentor and guide during a student's first year at YSU.

Peer Mentor duties:

- Serve as campus guide during all YSU orientation programs.
- Meet one-on-one with students throughout their first year to serve as knowledgeable guide, campus connection and academic support.

Who can Apply?

You are eligible to apply if you have completed at least 12 credits, have a 2.5 GPA, are a full-time student and are available to work all mandatory dates.

For application and more details: <http://bit.ly/YSUAppPM>

Application Deadline: Friday, March 20.

Complete application includes 2 letters of reference

Questions? Contact :

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kegraves@ysu.edu
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White Cadillac and Jagger Holly at Cedars

BILLY LUDT

wrludt@student.ysu.edu

White Cadillac, Youngstown's power groove trio, and the newly founded band Jagger Holly will perform Saturday evening at Cedars West End.

Adam May is the lead vocalist and guitarist in White Cadillac.

"We're American, excessive, classy, sleazy, a little bit metal, a little bit swagger and a little bit cheesy, but ultimately a pretty fun ride," May said.

The band takes its name from a lyric in a song by the Canadian rock band Danko Jones. May expressed that the name was fitting to the style of music White Cadillac plays.

Accompanying May in White Cadillac are B.J. Lisko on bass and Fred Whitacre Jr. on drums.

"We're always psyched to be playing at Cedars," May said. "The new and improved venue is even better than the original, in my opinion. The stage is great, Pete runs the best sound in town, and Billy and Mara are fantastic about supporting original music."

May, Lisko and Whitacre played shows in the building where Cedars now resides since they were underage. Back then, it was called the Sunset Strip, later being changed to Ground Zero.

"Yeah man, Cedars and the Royal Oaks are really the two places we call home in Youngstown," May said. "They're the absolute best at supporting original music, and the crowds we draw there are the best. No one stumbles into

our shows there. The people that come are ready to rock their faces off with us."

White Cadillac creates their sound through elements of funk, blues, heavy metal and rock 'n' roll.

"White Cadillac shows are typically a sleazy, hard rocking, fun time," Lisko said. "Take a roomful of assorted Youngstown riff raff, add copious amounts of booze to the equation, and it ends up being one big rock 'n' roll party that we are privileged to provide the soundtrack for."

May commented on the music scene in Youngstown.

"We really love a bunch of bands in town in a variety of genres," May said. "I've seen more quality shows in the last 18 months than I've seen in the several years prior."

Lisko expressed his interest in the now mysterious Jagger Holly.

"I'm curious to hear Jagger Holly since it features members from bands I've always liked," Lisko said. "I'm sure it's going to be punk rock, but given the band

name I expect it to be a touch different than The Spastic Hearts or Hollywood Blondes."

This Saturday will be Jagger Holly's first gig. Jagger Holly is comprised of members from local acts The Spastic Hearts and Hollywood Blondes.

"This is purely speculation, but it sounds like it could be a bit more on the rock side of things," Lisko said.

Admission to Saturday's show is \$5, and the music begins at 10 p.m. Cedars West End is located at 706 Steel Street.



PHOTO BY BILLY LUDT/THE JAMBAR.

Fine Art and Printmaking: Noted Printmaker to Visit YSU

GABRIELLE FELLOWS

gfellows@student.ysu.edu

Renowned printmaker Matthew Hopson-Walker is visiting Youngstown State University from Feb. 16-20 to guide students in the processes of producing the limited edition lithographs of his creation.

YSU art students will work with Hopson-Walker to take his initial ideas — a bird design and a plane design — and print them

onto T-shirts. Various printmaking techniques will be showcased, including relief, lithography and digital printing to name a few. The printmaking is happening in Room 4015 in Bliss Hall, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The shirts being created during the event will be sold for \$15 and limited edition prints of Hopson-Walker's work are also available and will be sold for \$125. Each print will be signed, numbered and fully documented. All pro-

ceeds from sales will support students of the YSU printmaking program and the collaboration itself.

Hopson-Walker's work has been featured in the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the Drawing and Print Collection at the University of Iowa Museum of Art, the Tama Art University Museum in Tokyo, Japan and many others. He was also the recipient of the James Phelan Award in Printmaking in 2006. He currently teaches printmaking and

drawing at College of the Sequoias and California State University-Fresno.

Hopson-Walker said his art is supposed to document personal experience and the images created often are inspired by the complexities of adulthood.

"I am very interested in the consequences of having conflicting thoughts or engaging in behavior that contradicts personal, social or moral responsibility. ... My images document personal experience, social hierarchies I've navigated

and people as darkly psychological beings," Hopson-Walker said. "With my images printmaking, collage and drawing techniques and materials are employed in a way that I relate metaphorically to the function of memory and experience."

The event is brought to students by the YSU Department of Art and The Red Press Collaborative, an organization that promotes fine art printmaking in the Mahoning Valley and at YSU.

Joseph D'Uva, associate professor of printmaking, said that the Red Press Collaborative is a steppingstone in educating future fine art printmakers.

"Print collaboration in its tradition has fostered relationships between professional artists and students using the most contemporary and comprehensive printmaking concepts available," D'Uva said. "We are excited about [Hopson-Walker] and look forward to both the print and the T-shirt image, both of which are unknown until the process begins."

All of the events in the series are free and open to the public. More information can be gathered by contacting D'Uva at jduva@ysu.edu or calling the department of art at 330-941-3627.



PHOTO BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS/THE JAMBAR.

EDITORIAL

The Daily Show with Jon Stewart: 1999-2015

Jon Stewart, host of the Daily Show, is retiring.

We can practically hear the internal wails of a thousand liberal millennials every time this is mentioned. Yes, the so-called comedy voice of a generation is stepping down, and the Daily Show and satirical news shows will never quite be the same.

It would be easy enough to write a pseudo-obituary to the death of the Daily Show as it once was, while praising the eminence of comic-supreme Jon Stewart, and be assured that our readers, for the most part, would solemnly shake their heads in agreement and think nothing of a Jon Stewart editorial. But this role has been played by a small legion of online and print publications.

Stewart's departure offers us the unique opportunity, in the form of the glorious news hook, to discuss the role of the comic and

satirist in journalism and politics. For you see, Jon Stewart and his contemporaries play a more important role in their respective spheres of influence than Stewart's critics, and even Stewart himself, would readily admit.

The most prominent critique of Stewart is that he is the liberal equivalent of Fox News, offering half-truths, aphorisms and cynical, but ultimately trite, remarks to a bias and young audience hungry for a man "who cuts through the crap" of a fundamentally ridiculous world that only they can see. And, you know what, there is some truth to these claims.

The critiques are correct that the Daily Show had a substantial base of viewers — dominating the late-night ratings within the 18-34 demographics — and many of those viewers likely were ready to devour any scathing comment of politi-

cians or mainstream media — regardless of the truth.

Certainly Stewart was not exactly a reporter, often tipping into farce in his "reporting" of the news or while deriding against the various scandals at the time.

Where the critiques are woefully mistaken is in thinking that this is all Jon Stewart was. They view this type of content as comedy dangerously masquerading as news; they misunderstand the importance of both comedy and commentary.

Consider the appearance of television, broadcasters and the 24-hour news channels, a la CNN. There is an inherent absurdity to journalism as is — frequently concerned with disassociating the individual's identity from their writing — and the information age brought this absurdity to the forefront by presenting us with a mechanical individual who, during the entirety of the broadcast, must play the character of the anchor.

The already cynical and skeptical sensibilities of the post-50s generation were all the more agitated, as the controversies of a nation and a world were no longer relegated to print. Political sex scandals, war and even the age-old fears of advertisers and editorial agendas in the newsrooms themselves became all the more immediate as they came to life on their screen.

There was fervor for change among the viewership that the even-minded anchor could not satisfy. From this need was born a new age of satirists and commentators.

You see Jon Stewart and

his ilk, as well as a new wave of media with inherent bias, Fox News and MSNBC, seem to be a response to the same phenomenon.

In truth, thinking of commentators and satirists as two separate entities is incorrect; satirists fall within the wide-range of commentators, but they fill a particular role. Recall the previous mention of a new generation of misanthropes and skeptics; satirists are their love, as there is something raw and counter-intuitively emotional to a true satirist's work.

If you have seen Stewart's show, then you know that his jokes with barbed edge and anger were more impactful because they shot such a sharp contrast with our expectations of the tongue in cheek comedian. Regardless of the truth, there is an undeniable sincerity to the satirist. They are diametrically opposed to the careful politicians, dry reporters and inauthentic commentators that dot the landscape.

The common defense of satirists is that they cut through the crap and are able to get to the heart of matters by breaking the traditional rule of etiquette. This is correct, but there are plenty of journalists that also cut deep with investigative reports that are ignored. Satirists are equally important in the modern era for who they appeal to as much as how they appeal, and they are appealing to a people who may otherwise be left behind. They offer a gateway to many with a fledgling interest in current events.

Stewart himself did often use the defense that he was

a comic first, and his role was to set up the next phallic joke not to offer substantial commentary. But this is a discredit to himself and his viewers.

The fundamental truth of any commentary offered, comedic or not, is there will be a bias and there will be a multitude of angles missed. This is why a diet of news is suggested for the public, allowing for a tapestry of viewpoints to prevent laziness in understanding current affairs. But this does not mean that the commentator is inherently negative.

Even if you believe that Jon Stewart's obvious liberal bias was a mechanism to brainwash a gullible viewership, there is no denying that Stewart could reach across the aisle to drudge up controversies that may have otherwise been ignored — Super Pacs and a host of small but important abuses of power. In mocking such activities, he was able to remind audiences just how absurd it is that these events were allowed to transpire.

There is a multitude of criticisms that we can lob at Stewart, some not missing the mark, but his legacy may not be in the accuracy or the hilarity of his show but the new wave of immensely popular satire it paved the way for — John Oliver and Stephen Colbert among them — in which comedians adopt the guise of those they mock. It is wholly a mistake to dismiss this new variety as mere comedians, but it is also a mistake to expect them to exist as reporters. They exist somewhere else in the nether, and they must continue to exist.

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YOUR SIDE POLICY

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Acting Like an Adult

AMANDA TONOLI

ajtonoli@student.ysu.edu

Getting a new job is always exciting; onto bigger and better things, meeting new people and all of that good stuff. What no one tells you when you get a new job is how to quit your old one — especially if you are leaving on bad terms.

Let's say you put in your two-weeks notice. You followed all the appropriate guidelines to quitting: respectfully approaching your boss with ample notice that this was coming, putting your resignation into proper letter format and offering to help train and even find your replacement. What happens when this is seemingly not enough?

"Some bosses will simply let you go once you put in your notice," said Lindsay Olson in "Do You Always Have to Give Two Weeks' Notice," published in March 2013 on usanews.com. "Whether that's due to a temper tantrum, or just your boss's style, don't worry about it."

So in trying to save your boss from your loss

by giving them the standard, courteous goodbye, you may have just screwed yourself out of a job for the next two weeks.

In order to keep your bills paid and your budget stable, Olson encourages to take other, less respectable avenues to save yourself.

"If you know your boss has always fired every employee who ever put in his resignation, you might take your chances and quit just a few days before you're due at the new company to keep the cash flow steadier," Olson said.

Sometimes, however, your boss will keep you throughout your two-week notice, meanwhile taking out their aggression on you because of your new opportunity.

In "How To Survive Your Two Weeks Notice And Quitting Your Job," on the grindstone.com published in October 2012, Megan Broussard addresses being kept on staff and the stress of finishing out your time left with that job.

"As punishment or a result of panic, your boss may try and milk your short time left for everything it's worth," Broussard said. "But don't sac-

rific your mental health just to keep the peace with your boss."

Maintaining your own mental health is the most important part of your life, especially your work life. You can't go to a new job trained to be in constant fear of retaliation and immature behavior from your superior — it'll lead to a poor start and attitude for your new adventure. Broussard suggests taking at least a week off between your end point of your old job and the starting point of your new job.

It seems anymore that putting your notice in at work is either going to go wonderfully, with positive words of encouragement on your way up in the world, or disastrous — with disrespect and anger directed at you for moving on with your life and the hell away from your overworked and underpaid job.

My advice would be to have enough money put away to take care of yourself if you're cut early and still take the high road — give your boss enough notice for him or her to decide whether or not to be a decent human being and to handle your resignation like an adult.

Penguins Look to Continue Win Streak

DAN HINER
dghiner@student.ysu.edu

After losing two games early in the month, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team was looking to gain momentum heading into an easier portion of the schedule.

The Penguins are coming off of wins against the University of Detroit Mercy and Oakland University last week.

"It's nice to have that two-game win streak going into another road trip, but we had a great practice today and we got one more here at home and then we'll be on the road for two games," head coach John Barnes said. "It's exciting to be where we are because we can finish as high as second, or if you don't play well and tank, you could finish toward the bottom. So you can control your own destiny."

Barnes said the team played well against Detroit, but could have played better.

"We're trying to just take it one game at a time, as cliché as that is, but we had some good runs this year, we had some runs where we didn't play so well," Barnes said. "I thought that we played really hard at Detroit. We didn't play as smart as we could have at times, but we played hard enough to get the win down there."

The Penguins are confident heading on the road for games against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and Valparaiso University this week.

"Confidence-wise it always helps," Barnes said.

"We were on a little bit of a down tick — losing some close games that we could have or should have won. We played very well at home against Milwaukee and got a big win, being able to win at home at any time especially with a young team is a confidence booster."

Senior forward Heidi Schlegel was named the Horizon League Player of the Week. Schlegel averaged 19.5 points and 12 rebounds last week against the Oakland University and Detroit.

"She's very unselfish. Most teams are now double teaming us down in the post, if not triple teaming us," Barnes said. "Whether it's Tish or Heidi, they're coming and they've done a great job at getting the ball out of there to our open shooters. It creates great opportunities for us offensively because they've been so effective in the post."

Opponents are starting to double team Schlegel and senior Latisha Walker. The other members of the team have stepped up to provide offense from behind the three-point line.

"They've done a really good job. I'm very proud of them — especially at Detroit," Schlegel said. "I thought Indiya [Benjamin] stepped up and she just went out and played and she just had fun. It's good to have players like that on my team that can step up."

The Panthers are 8-15 on the season and 4-7 in conference play. The Penguins are aware that Milwaukee is toward the bottom of the conference, but are not overlooking the Panthers on their home court.

"They really play well at home. Our team under-



Senior forward Heidi Schlegel (15) drives into the lane during the Penguins' first game against the University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin back on Jan. 31. Schlegel finished with 24 points and nine rebounds.

stands that it doesn't matter who we're playing and where they finished in the league — especially in our league, anybody can beat anybody. Valpo beat Milwaukee pretty handily the

other night at home. Milwaukee beat Oakland at home pretty handily and Oakland had beaten Green Bay the game before. It really doesn't matter. Every team, if you're not ready

to play, can beat anybody else," Barnes said. "So we just keep pounding that in and hoping that sets in and hopefully they realize that and come ready to play both games."

Swimming and Diving Prepares for Conference Championship

DREW ZUHOSSKY
atzuhosky@ysu.edu

Starting on Feb. 25, the top aquatic talents in the Horizon League will converge on the Brown Deer, WI Walter Schroder Aquatic Center for the 2015 Horizon League Swimming and Diving Championship, hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers.

The Penguins had a strong showing at the event in last season's championship, highlighted by Bec Stafford placing third in the one-meter dive. Jana Janson later broke the program record in the 50-yard freestyle for quickest time (23.72 seconds).

Youngstown State University looks to have a repeat performance

this year. There are several teams that look to test Youngstown State University heading in the championship. Multiple teams look like they could come out ahead of the Penguins.

Senior backstroke swimmer Ashley Dow said she believes that either the Milwaukee Panthers or Oakland University Grizzlies will provide the toughest test for the Penguins come time for the championship.

"They're both really strong teams, and they have really strong swimmers," Dow said.

Dow predicted that the University of Illinois-Chicago Flames will give YSU the most fits when the championship arrives.

"We were really close to UIC and Oakland's got some good girls, too," she said.

Dow couldn't zero in on one per-

son as the team's best swimmer. The team is composed of young talent that had to compete early.

"We have a lot of good girls, like McKensie Stelter and Lydia Scheringer for diving, all four of the freshmen we got in this year are amazingly fast," she said. "I think they're going to do wonderfully at the championships."

Neither Dow nor freshman freestyler Viktoria Orosz think YSU can take the title at the end of the month.

"We don't really have the numbers," Dow said. "We've got some fast girls and strength on our team, but we don't have the numbers."

Orosz said she thinks her toughest test will come from a swimmer from UIC, citing their similar times on the 1,000-meter freestyle.

"We had a good competi-

tion a couple of weeks ago on the 1,000-meter," Orosz said. "I can't wait for the race."

Freshman diver McKenzie Stelter suffered a concussion earlier in the season. Members of the team said they believe Stelter is one of the best divers on the team. Unfortunately her diving hasn't been consistent since returning.

"McKenzie was out for a month probably with the concussion from the beginning of November to December," head coach Matt Anderson said. "She's been back for a month now, but she's just had a bit of a rough time getting everything put back together as far as where her dives are at."

Stelter has been a workhorse in her preparation for the championships.

"I've put in a lot of hard work and extra training, so I think it's all going to pay off for conference," Stelter said.

Orosz said that the team's been looking forward to the conference championships since the year began.

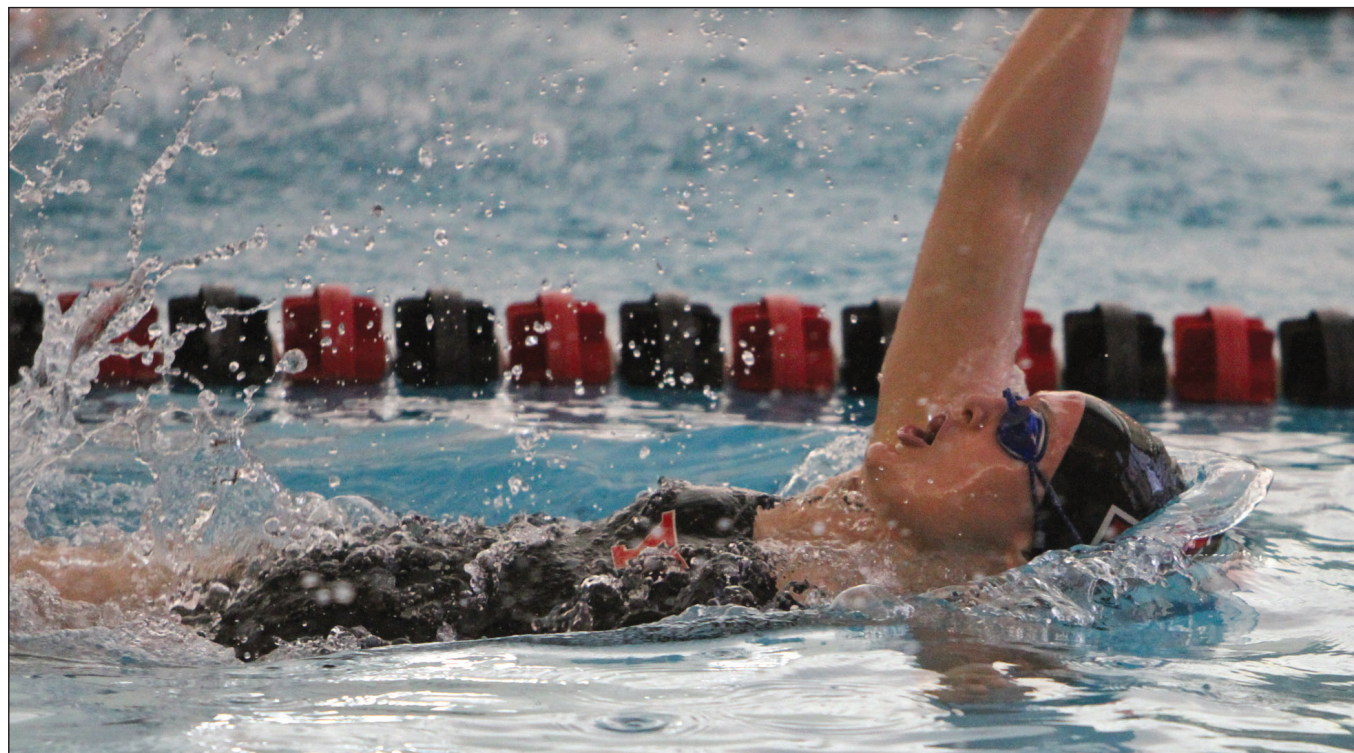
"We train the whole year and we just started to taper to rest," she said. "I think we'll be ready for the tournament."

Unlike her teammates, Stelter was more optimistic when asked about the team's championship chances.

"We have a lot of good girls on the team," she said. "I think that if we all do our best, then we have a good shot."

Freshman swimmer Madison Aranda echoed Stelter's optimism heading into the conference championship.

"We have a lot of really good swimmers and divers," she said. "I think that we, all of us together, working really hard, can accomplish a lot."



Senior swimmer Ashley Dow competed in the 100 Butterfly during the Magnus Invitational on Nov. 22, 2014. Dow finished with a time of 59.15, which is the second fastest time for the team this season.